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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #69

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.D.S.T.

JUNE 29, 1933

THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" ----

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET

ANNOUNCER: The National Forests of our country are the vacation lands of the American people. In some regions, where these mountain playgrounds are located near large centers of population, it is not uncommon on a holiday, such as the Fourth of July, to have one hundred thousand visitors to a single Forest. With this great influx of travelers comes an increasing fire hazard, for though most people are careful with fire in the woods, there is always someone in every large crowd who through acts of carelessness may endanger the forest and the visitors therein. That is why the Forest Service has found it necessary to lay down strict rules of conduct, especially in reference to the use of fire, for all those who use the national forests.

Up on the Pine Cone District, where our old friend Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant Jerry Quick are on the job, there will undoubtedly be many visitors over the Fourth. Consequently, it's our guess that Ranger Jim and the others at the Pine Cone Ranger Station have the coming holiday on their minds just now. Let's tune in there and see what's going on ----

(FADE IN WITH JIM HUMMING TUNE)

BESS: (OFF - CALLS) Oh Jim ----

JIM: Yes, Bess, what is it?

BESS: (COMING UP) Has the mail come yet?

JIM: Not yet, Bess. -- Jerry's gone after it now. --- Why?

BESS: Oh, nothing - I was just looking for a letter from Aunt Bertha.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) You're not getting another recipe for making cake, are you - or is it chili sauce this time?

BESS: Jim Robbins, I guess I don't have to ask anyone how to make cake, or chili sauce either. My lands, a person can't even ask you a simple question without you thinking of your stomach - and cake.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, you know, they say a man can't live by bread alone.

BESS: That should worry you - after eating three big pieces of cake for supper last night.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Did you keep count on Jerry?

BESS: Never you mind Jerry. I know your weakness, Jim Robbins - (GOING OFF) and cake's one of them.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Maybe so, maybe so.

(DOG BARKS, OFF)

JIM: (CALLS) I think that's Jerry coming now, Bess.

(DOOR SLAMS)

JERRY: (ABRUPT) Here's your mail.

JIM: Much obliged, Jerry.

BESS: (COMING UP) Anything for me, Jerry?

JERRY: Yes, Mrs. Robbins - here's a letter for you.

BESS: Oh, thank, Jerry. (TEARING OPEN LETTER) Let's see - Oh dear, Aunt Bertha says she can't come up here now - she has company, that's a shame.

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JIM: Better write and ask her to come later in the summer and pay us a good visit. It'd do her good.

BESS: I'll do that, Jim, right away.

JIM: All right. -- What's wrong, Jerry? Why so quiet?

JERRY: Oh nothing. I just ran onto Mary Halloway down at the post office, and she's still acting kinda funny about Ruth Lander being here.

JIM: I see. (CHUCKLES)

BESS: She never stops in here at the Station any more -- does she?

JERRY: No.

JIM: Well (CHUCKLES) of course I don't know anything about such matters, but offhand, I'd say that the schoolma'am probably thinks you're shining up to our new clerk here a little too much.

JERRY: Well, if Ruth's going to be working here in the office with us, we've got to be civil toward her, haven't we?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) I guess you're doing pretty well.

JERRY: Well, if Mary wants to act that way about it, let 'er go ahead. That's all I've got to say.

BESS: Oh, Jerry!!

JERRY: Well -- anyway -- Say, Jim, there's sure a lot of travel on the road today. Lot of cars going up into the Forest.

JIM: Uh huh. The Glorious Fourth is coming pretty sudden, you know.

JERRY: Gosh, I almost forgot about that. -- Say -- I don't suppose there's any chance for a fellow to get off for the day, is there? -- I was just thinking -- I might take Mary to ---

JIM: Mary?

JERRY: I mean -- uh -- Ruth -- I meant to say --

JIM: Well, you can save yourself the trouble of choosing which girl to go galivanting around with. What's your idea of a ranger's job and its responsibilities anyway? - Wanting to pull out on the busiest day of the fire season?

JERRY: Yeah, that's right - I wasn't thinking --

JIM: I've been a ranger in the Forest Service for nearly thirty years and I've never had a Fourth of July off yet.

JERRY: Haven't you - not a single one?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well - I pretty nearly had one once, but --

JERRY: But what?

JIM: But a bunch of firecrackers spoiled it.

JERRY: How was that?

JIM: Well - it happened quite a few years ago - when I had a ranger district for a spell, that was mostly covered with brush. Not much big ~~timber~~, but the brush was mighty valuable for protecting the headwaters of several important streams. A fire sure could run through that stuff when it once got started.

JERRY: I bet it could.

JIM: Anyway, on the night before the Fourth, it rained hard, and I figured there wouldn't be much fire danger for one day anyway; and next morning everything looked "jake" so I left a guard in charge of the station and told him to call me on the phone if I was needed, and Bess and I started for the rodeo up at Belle Plains.

BESS: Oh yes, I remember that day, Jim. "Started" is the right word, indeed.

JIM: Well, sir, we were driving over the Ridge Road - one of the main highways that cut through my district, when we ran slap-bang into a fire.

JERRY: Say, that was too bad. - But what about the firecrackers, Jim?

JIM: Huh? Oh yes -- that's the queer part of the story. - It happened like this. A rancher up in the mountains and his family had been down to town getting their supplies. There were so many kids in the old flivver that when they started for home they had to carry some of their stuff on the running board. And one thing they had tied there was a five gallon can of gas, and right on top of it they put a new cotton comfort done up in paper.- Well, the kids in the back seat were cutting up and shooting off firecrackers as they rode along - and about half way home someone smelled smoke, so the rancher ran the car to the outside of the road, on an embankment, and hopped out to see what was the matter.

BESS: And was he surprised!

JIM: (CHUCKLING) I reckon he was - a bit. There was the cotton comfort all ablaze, right on top of a can full of gasoline.

JERRY: Gee - what did he do?

JIM: He grabbed the comfort and gave it a big pull - and just then he lost his footing and rolled down the hill into the brush with the blazing bundle in his arms, and ---

BESS: And Jim and a hundred other men spent the rest of the day and most of the night fighting fire.

JIM: Yep, that's right. And that ended my one and only Fourth of July holiday. (PAUSE)

and the same day the ship was ordered to return to the

port of origin and to remain there until further orders.

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BESS: Jim, what's that package there on the table. Is it for me?

JIM: No ma'am. That belongs to me.

BESS: What is it?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) See, can you beat a woman for curiosity. --
Open 'er, Jerry, so Bess can see what's in it.

(RUSTLE OF PAPER)

JERRY: Why, it's a flag.

BESS: Where did you get it, Jim?

JIM: I ordered it awhile back from the supervisor. Thought it
would be kinda nice to have a new flag for the Fourth of
July. Ours is looking a bit shabby.

JERRY: Let's put it up now.

JIM: Why not wait till the Fourth and make it a real celebration?

JERRY: Okay. -- The old one's certainly lasted well.

JIM: Yep. It's been properly treated, Jerry. Never left to flap
itself out day and night in the wind and rain -- and it
never will be, as long as I'm ranger here.

(TELEPHONE RINGS)

BESS: There's the telephone, Jim.

JIM: Yep. I'll get it. (TO PHONE) Ranger Jim Robbins speaking. --
Oh, hello, Ernie, how you making it? -- Yes -- Huh? -- Well, I
guess we'll have to come up and give you a hand. -- Yeah,
sure. -- We'll be starting right away. -- All right, see
you soon. Goodbye. (HANGS UP)

BESS: What's the trouble, Jim?

1. The first of these is the fact that the...

2. The second is the fact that the...

3. The third is the fact that the...

4. The fourth is the fact that the...

5. The fifth is the fact that the...

(continued)

6. The sixth is the fact that the...

7. The seventh is the fact that the...

8. The eighth is the fact that the...

9. The ninth is the fact that the...

10. The tenth is the fact that the...

11. The eleventh is the fact that the...

12. The twelfth is the fact that the...

13. The thirteenth is the fact that the...

14. The fourteenth is the fact that the...

15. The fifteenth is the fact that the...

16. The sixteenth is the fact that the...

(continued)

17. The seventeenth is the fact that the...

18. The eighteenth is the fact that the...

19. The nineteenth is the fact that the...

20. The twentieth is the fact that the...

21. The twenty-first is the fact that the...

22. The twenty-second is the fact that the...

23. The twenty-third is the fact that the...

JIM: Oh, nothing much. Ernie, the guard down at the checking station, says that they're coming a little too fast for him. More campers coming in than he can handle. -- Some of 'Em are getting kinda mad because they can't take fireworks into the Forest, he says.

BESS: But surely they must realize how dangerous fireworks are in the woods.

JERRY: Yeah, and with all those people up there. -- Want me to go with you, Jim?

JIM: Yep. We'll stop at some of the campgrounds on the way back.

JERRY: All right. (GOING OFF) I'll get the car for you in a minute,

BESS: You'll be back in time for supper, Jim?

JIM: Sure, -- it isn't far up there and back. Don't worry, Bess
(GOING OFF) we won't be late this time.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF AUTO COMING UP AND STOPPING)

JERRY: Hi, Ernie!

ERNIE: Hi, Jerry -- Howdy, Jim. Glad to see you.

JIM: How's the checking going by now, Ernie?

ERNIE: Say! I checked in over two hundred cars this morning -- all loaded with people out for a vacation. -- Here comes another one now.

JIM: Sure enough.

(MOTOR COMING UP TO STOP)

TOURIST: Hello, rangers. Does that "Stop" sign in the middle of the road mean what it says?

ERNIE: Yes sir. We're stopping all cars going into the Forest for the holiday, to warn 'em about the fire danger.

the following names being the first ones of the persons
mentioned, who were present at the trial and the
same have appeared before in some of our reports, and some of
the new parties being the persons who were present at the
trial on the 17th of May.

The names of the persons who were present at the trial are
as follows:

First, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 17th of May.

Second, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 18th of May.

Third, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 19th of May.

Fourth, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 20th of May.

Fifth, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 21st of May.

Sixth, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 22nd of May.

Seventh, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 23rd of May.

Eighth, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 24th of May.

Ninth, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 25th of May.

Tenth, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 26th of May.

Eleventh, the names of the persons who were present at the trial
on the 27th of May.

TOURIST: Say, that's a good idea. These forest fires are sure terrible, aren't they? Must keep you rangers hopping, huh?

JIM: Mister, is this your cigarette butt burning out there in the road?

TOURIST: (CONFUSED) Huh? Well -- I'll be darned -- maybe it is, Ranger. I was smoking when I drove up, and I guess I must've thrown it out without thinking.

JIM: Well, I'll put it out for you this time -- see -- but next time, pardner, don't forget. You've got an ash receptacle in your car, you know.

TOURIST: Thanks, Ranger. I won't. -- Well, I guess we --

JIM: Wait a minute now.

TOURIST: Huh?

JIM: I don't suppose you knew you were reaching for another cigarette already?

TOURIST: Huh? -- Say, I guess it's a habit all right.

JIM: Might as well put 'er back. You're not allowed to smoke in the forest, except in camps and places where you see "Smoke Here" signs posted.

TOURIST: All right. I'll remember.

JIM: Looks like you need watching, mister. How about turning your cigarettes over to your wife here while you're in the Forest? I guess you can see that he observes the smoking rules, can't you, Missus?

WIFE: I certainly can.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, that ought to take care of that. -- Now, there's just one more thing. How about it, Ernie?

ERNIE: Yeah. Have you any fireworks in your car, mister?

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TOURIST: Sure I have - a whole box full. We're going to shoot 'em off up at the camp.

ERNIE: Sorry, mister, but you'll have to leave them here. It's against the law to take fireworks into the National Forests.

TOURIST: (PEEVED) Say - seems to me you guys are getting awful fussy about people coming into your forest here.

JIM: Wait a minute now, pardner - don't get riled up about it. — Do you see anything unreasonable about those rules? A couple of simple rules about fireworks and smoking?

TOURIST: Well - uh - no, but —

JIM: Can't you see how dry the woods are? A lighted firecracker in those needles and duff there might start a big fire, and with all the people up here in the woods it'd endanger a lot of lives, wouldn't it - to say nothing of the timber and other resources that might be destroyed. That's plain enough, isn't it?

TOURIST: Yes, that's true enough, Ranger. I guess you're right all right. Here's the fireworks - in back, here.

ERNIE: I'll get 'em. — You can get 'em again on your way back, mister. We'll keep 'em here for you.

TOURIST: No thanks. I won't want 'em after the Fourth.

JIM: Any objections if I give 'em to some of the kids down in the village, where they can enjoy 'em?

TOURIST: Okay with me.

JIM: All right. — Good luck, folks. — Remember about smoking.

TOURIST: I won't forget. — (SARCASTIC) If I do, my wife'll tell me about it. Won't you dearie?

(MOTOR UP AND FADING INTO DISTANCE)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

When I came - a whole new world. My's going in about ten
out of the camp.

Forty, ninety, the people here to leave from here. It's
against the law to have a woman here. The women
themselves.

(Singing) Oh - yes, is the you ever and leaving early
I've about people coming into your house. I've
Met a woman here, I've met - but's the time in about 40
- Do you see anything remarkable about these women? I
saw a lot of things that I've never seen before.
Well - yes - no, but -

Oh, you see how far the road goes? I've never seen
in some people and they come into my house. I've
and with all the people in the house, I've never
a lot of things, wouldn't it - in the middle of the house
and the people that come in here, they're all
different, aren't they?

Yes, they're all different. I've never seen
all kinds of things, I've never seen - in some, yes.
I'll tell you - you can see the people in here and here,
different, they're all different.

Oh, yes, I've never seen the people.
My objection is I like to see it all of the time. I
the village, where there are some people.

Oh, yes, yes.
All right, - yes, yes, yes, - I've never seen anything
I want to see, - (Singing) It's a whole new world to
when it's over, you'll see.

(Singing) It's a whole new world to see.

(Singing) It's a whole new world to see.

JERRY: Say, you know, Jim, we ought to enlarge this camp ground. It's getting kind of crowded.

JIM: I was just thinking of that. Looks like it'll be jammed full over the Fourth.

JERRY: We're sure having lots of visitors these days. Our Forest seems to be pretty popular.

JIM: All the National Forests are, Jerry. Last year, we had over thirty million visitors, counting all the national forests in the country.

JERRY: That's a lot of people.

JIM: Yep. — Well, sir, I'd say we've spent a pleasant and profitable afternoon, Jerry — going around the camps and meeting the visitors to the Forest.

JERRY: I enjoyed it, too. — Gee, I never knew you had so many friends, Jim.

JIM: Making friends always pays, Jerry.

JERRY: Yeah. — Looks like we're going to get home in time for supper tonight, Jim — it's just turning dusk now.

JIM: Uh huh. I guess we'd better crank up the old chariot and get going huh, Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah. I bet Mrs. Robbins'll be surprised.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Maybe so. Maybe she will. — Quite a view from here, huh, Jerry?

JERRY: Gosh yes — look at the big sweep of forest — and the valley out beyond.

JIM: There's Winding Creek away over there where the smoke's rising. If it was lighter, I bet we could pick out the flag in front of the ranger station. — Well, here we go.

(SOUND OF RACING MOTOR)

JERRY: Wait - look, Jim - see that funny light down there near the foot of the grade?

JIM: Where? I don't see anything.

JERRY: I don't either now - but it was there a minute ago - it looked like a shooting star.

JIM: Maybe the lights of an auto coming up the grade.

JERRY: There it is again. -- See that streak of light?

JIM: (LONG DRAWN OUT WHISTLE) Know what that is?

JERRY: No, what?

JIM: Skyrockets. -- There goes a whole flock of 'em.

JERRY: Gosh! Nobody'd be fool enough to shoot off skyrockets in the forest - with all these people and children up here!

JIM: That's what it is all right. -- We'd better find those rockets, Jerry - or the whole country'll be on fire.

JERRY: We sure had!

(SOUND OF MOTOR)

JIM: Hang on tight, Jerry, we're going to travel!

(MOTOR UP AND FADEOUT)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF MOTOR COMING UP TO STOP)

JIM: Hey, Jerry - wake up.

JERRY: (SLEEPILY) Whazza matter - did you find - another fire?

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Nope. Three in one night's plenty for me. - Come on, snap out of it, - we're back at the ranger station.

JERRY: (GROANS) Gee, I'm all in, Jim. Fighting fire in the dark isn't much fun, is it?

JIM: Just a part of the day's work, son.

JERRY: Are you going to get a warrant for the fellow that shot off those skyrockets.

JIM: Yep. First thing in the morning.

JERRY: (YAWNING) Gosh, I'm sleepy. What time is it, Jim?

JIM: Nearly four o'clock. It's beginning to get light.

JERRY: Four o'clock! - Say, we'd better slip in kind of quiet, so's not to wake Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Yep. Better take off the hob-nail boots, I reckon.

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: Go easy with that door.

(DOOR CREAKS)

JERRY: (WHISPERS) Shucks, the door hinges squeaked.

JIM: (WHISPERS) I guess Bess didn't hear it.

BESS: (SLEEPY VOICE) (OFF) Is that you, Jim?

JIM: (CLEARING THROAT) Yes, Bess, it's me and Jerry.

BESS: My land, I sat up half the night waiting for you. I thought you told me you'd be home on time.

JIM: (INJURED TONE) Why, Bess - we are on time.

BESS: On time?

JIM: (SOFT CHUCKLE) Sure - on time for breakfast.

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, better late than never, Jim - even if you had to miss one meal to be on time for the next. --

Friends, many of you, with your families, will be going into the National Forests for your Fourth of July vacation. The Forest Service bids you welcome, and hopes you have a most enjoyable time. May we ask one favor of you, in behalf of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers? Please leave your fireworks at home, and be very, very careful with your burning matches, cigarettes, and camp fires. Don't take any chances - be sure they're dead out. Help us make this a Glorious Fourth, without a single forest fire, for the boys who wear the U.S. pine tree badge. Are you with us? Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Thursday at this hour as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

ih/11:55 A.M.
June 26, 1933.

